

I am Alive!

"(v.1) It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. (v.2) You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. (v.3) We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. (v.4) Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. (v.5) He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! (v.6) Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

(v.7) Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. (v.8) Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! (v.9) We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. (v.10) He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing."

Ephesians 2:1-10

The Message

This passage is one of the clearest, most expressive,
and most loved descriptions of salvation in the New Testament.
There are 3 main sections to it.

1 Our old life-style. (v.1-3)

We were mired in a life of sin.(v.1)

We let the world, tell us how to live. (v.2)

We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing,
when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. (v.3)

2 God's immense mercy. (v.4-7)

The mercy and love of God embraces us! (v.4)

The emphasis is on God! → "mercy, love, grace, kindness, gift"

All these words are trying to adequately describe the reality of the gospel.

"He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ." = He did this for us in Christ.

Salvation exists because God created life in the midst of death.

Without the resurrection there would be no salvation.

We are raised with Christ.

"Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus."
You really do matter to God!

3 Faith = that on which one may rely or the act of relying on something or someone believed reliable.

**Have you relied on Christ?
Will you rely on Him today?**

4 God's hand-crafted creation = you and me!

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (v.10)

Finally, these words speak to us.

We are all personally shaped by the hands of God for ministry in the name of Jesus.
Each of us is unique.
No one is discarded.
Each valuable and useful!

Go!
Live!
Serve!